

weekly radio address last Saturday to outline new cuts to Medicare and Medicaid benefits, totaling over 300 billion dollars.

My continuous fear throughout the health care reform process has been that Democrats will opt to pay for changes to the system on the backs of seniors.

This is unfair to my district, where more Medicare beneficiaries reside than anywhere else in the country.

Among the cuts the President has proposed are reducing payments to hospitals that care for large numbers of the uninsured by \$106 billion.

President Obama asserts that because so many people will have health insurance after his reforms, these hospitals will no longer need the money.

But that doesn't account for illegal immigrants, who use the emergency room since they cannot obtain care elsewhere.

Emergency rooms visits are a major driver of health care costs, and if hospitals cannot receive aid from the federal government, they may be forced to eliminate valuable resources you or I may desperately need in the future.

The President also proposed taking \$75 billion from the Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

As someone who worked diligently on the bill to provide prescription drug coverage for seniors for the first time in history, I am adamantly opposed to taking money from this program.

The logical assumption is that if the program is cut, Part D plans will be forced to raise seniors' premiums in order to cover their costs.

President Obama is also determined to cut \$177 billion from Medicare Advantage plans, which I know my constituents value greatly.

Our nation's 44 million elderly who have worked hard all their lives cannot be ignored in favor of trying to provide coverage to a few million people.

I urge my Democrat colleagues in Congress to make more of an effort to address quality and reform payment systems, instead of taking benefits directly from seniors.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. CONNIE MACK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. MACK. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks I received as part of H.R. 2847—the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agency Appropriations Act, FY 2010.

Project Name: Emergency Services Technology, Collier County, Florida

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 2847—the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agency Appropriations Act, FY 2010

Account: DOJ/COPS

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Collier County, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: 3301 East Tamiami Trail, Naples, Florida 34112

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding: \$800,000 will be utilized for the

acquisition of public safety technology equipment for the Collier County Emergency Services Center. The funding is important because it will help to better equip Collier County's emergency service providers to respond to events that could engender the safety and citizens of Collier County, Florida.

Project Name: FGCU Law Enforcement and Public Safety

Requesting Member: Congressman CONNIE MACK

Bill Number: H.R. 2847—the Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agency Appropriations Act, FY 2010

Account: DOJ/OJP-Byrne Discretionary Grants

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Florida Gulf Coast University

Address of Requesting Entity: 10501 FGCU Blvd, S., Fort Myers, Florida 33965

Description of Request/Justification of Federal Funding: \$200,000 will be utilized for the development of tools for training and processing crime scenes for use by law enforcement and public safety officials. This work will be done at the Florida Gulf Coast University in its Law Enforcement and Public Safety Department.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2847) making appropriations for the Department of Commerce and Justice, and Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes:

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I wholeheartedly support Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee Chairman MOLLOHAN's bipartisan amendment to restore \$100 million to the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), to meet the Fiscal Year 2009 level of \$400 million.

I greatly appreciate my good friend, ALAN MOLLOHAN, and his staff's recognition of the importance of this program by rejecting the President's proposal to eliminate SCAAP.

Counties across the country depend on SCAAP for reimbursement of the costs associated with the detention and incarceration of criminal aliens.

Keep in mind, local law enforcement only receive a partial reimbursement through SCAAP. For example, in my district, Riverside County received reimbursement for only 17% of the cost of incarcerating criminal aliens in Fiscal Years 08–09. And out of Orange County's 65,000 inmates booked each year at the county jails, approximately 19% are criminal aliens.

Although illegal immigration is clearly the federal government's responsibility, counties incur millions of dollars in unreimbursed expenses each year as a result of housing criminal aliens.

During difficult economic times, local governments are struggling to pay for budgeted

programs and additional demands for services are straining the system to the breaking point—unreimbursed expenses simply cannot go unmet.

This amendment will help the many communities across the nation burdened with the costs of our federal government's failed responsibility to secure our nation's borders.

I urge my colleagues to accept the amendment.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. HOLT. Madam Speaker, on Friday, June 12, 2009, I was in New Jersey welcoming home the soldiers of the New Jersey Army National Guard's 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team after their tour in Iraq and missed one vote.

Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on H. Res. 532 providing for further consideration of H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act; and "yes" to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 1256, the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (rollcall 335).

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF CAPTAIN THOMAS R. CARNEY, JR., UNITED STATES NAVY

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 18, 2009

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding Naval Officer, Captain Tom Carney and to recognize his dedicated service to our Nation. It is a great honor for me to thank Captain Carney and his family for their distinguished service. Captain Carney has proudly and selflessly served our nation for 28 years.

It was during his last assignment as Director of the Secretary of the Navy's Appropriations Matters office that I first came to know Captain Carney. In this capacity, he has proved to be an invaluable link between the Navy and me, my staff, and the Appropriations Committee. Captain Carney has escorted me and other Members of Congress on several occasions as we traveled both home and abroad to review military operations and to confirm the health and welfare of our troops.

On every occasion, Captain Carney performed his duties in an exacting and precise manner. But far more important to me and the members of the Appropriations Committee was the insight he shared with us concerning matters of national security and the Department of the Navy. He clearly understands the role of the Navy in providing for our Nation's security and stability, as well as serving as an ambassador for American values throughout the world.

We have always been able to count on Captain Carney's candor, judgment, and steadfast devotion to duty mixed in with a flair of humor. He was an invaluable asset to me